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Page 7

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Page 14

Pocket dialing

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INPORT NEWS

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■ **DEATH AND TAXES — AND WATER BILLS:** Compassion not shown by City of Port Colborne, daughter says



Dead man charged for running faucet

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The City of Port Colborne wants payment for water that poured from a bathroom

faucet for three weeks while the home's owner was dead inside the house.

Cara Zandvliet contends if water is not intentionally used then someone shouldn't be charged for it.

The Port Colborne woman said the city issued a \$586.44 bill to the account of her father, Allister MacPherson, who died in September.

Zandvliet, who normally handles her father's monthly bills, said he died suddenly on Sept. 28.

EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo
Cara Zandvliet holds up her late father's water bill for close to \$600. Zandvliet claims her father was unfairly charged by the City of Port Colborne for three weeks of water usage.

see BILL | page 2

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■ BILL

City not willing to waive costs

FROM PAGE 1

It wasn't until three weeks after his death that family members discovered MacPherson's body — and that during that time a faucet in his Delhi St. home bathroom had been left running.

Zandvliet said her father preferred to live independently and didn't want regular checkups from family members.

The water that was running he didn't actually use," Zandvliet said. "Normally my dad is charged \$200 for

three months. His final bill was \$600 for two months. We shouldn't be charged for water he didn't use."

In late December Zandvliet received the bill from the city for the 201 cubic metres worth of water consumed between Sept. 14 and Dec. 12, 2011.

Zandvliet said other companies such as Bell Canada were sympathetic to the family tragedy and exempted charges to the final bill.

The City of Port Colborne however, she claimed,

It's a physical commodity. We purchase the water from the region and someone has to cover the costs."

Peter Senese,

Port Colborne's director of community and corporate services

wasn't in the same boat.

"I want to recognize this is a good town, but city hall won't do anything about this," Zandvliet said.

Peter Senese, Port Colborne's director of community and corporate services, said while it's unfortu-

nate MacPherson died, the running faucet had water passing through the metre — a city charge — which in turn entered into the sewer — a charge levied by the region.

"We (the city) still have to pay the region for water and

sewer treatment," Senese said. "For us to waive off any fees means we still have to pay the region."

Someone has to eat the cost and it's not going to be city taxpayers, Senese said.

The city maintains someone has to recoup the cost for the water that was measured by a water meter.

Senese said there have been cases in the past when city fees were waived when residents weren't at fault, such as water leaks and pipe breaks. The regional water treatment charge is still

applied on the bill, however.

"Even if the water flow wasn't their fault, water still passed through the metre and someone has to pay for it," Senese said. "It's a physical commodity. We purchased the water from the region and someone has to cover the costs."

Zandvliet said if she has to pay the bill she will. She just hoped the city was more compassionate about how things were handled.

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■ MUNICIPAL FINANCE: Faucet ran for three weeks after man died alone

Dead man's water bill can be disputed, mayor says

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — If a resident wants forgiveness from a municipally-enforced policy all they have to do is ask, Port Colborne's mayor says.

"It's that simple." Vance Badaway said any policy enforced by municipal staff is set in place by city council. And it's up to the council whether it wants to deviate from a policy at any time.

"Any member of the community can come before

Any member of the community can come before council and ask forgiveness from policies."

Mayor Vance Badaway

council and ask forgiveness from policies," the mayor said.

Badaway is responding to Port Colborne resident Cara Zandvliet, who turned to the municipality in search of financial relief from a near \$600 water bill charged to her late father, Allister MacPherson.

MacPherson died suddenly Sept. 28, leaving a bathroom faucet running. The water remained flowing for three weeks before MacPherson's body was discovered by family members.

Zandvliet said a normal water bill would cost \$200 for a three-month period. However, MacPherson was

charged close to \$600 for two months.

Zandvliet doesn't believe her father should be charged for the water that flowed from the bathroom faucet because she said the water was not used.

Peter Senese, the city's director of community and corporate

services, begs to differ.

Senese stated earlier this week the municipal levy cannot be waived by the region along with municipal costs for water passed through the metre.

Waiving the municipal cost would still mean the city would

have to eat the region's levy, a responsibility that shouldn't fall on the shoulders of the taxpayers, Senese said.

If Zandvliet is asking for forgiveness for her father's water bill, Badaway said he would like to know if she's doing the same for other commodities such as hydro and gas.

"I'd like to see their (other companies') responses," Badaway said.

The mayor said Zandvliet is welcome to appear at any future city council meeting to plead her case.



Badaway



Senese

■ POLITICS: Federal NDP leadership

Former Welland MPP Kormos backing Nash for federal NDP leader

MARYANNE FIRTH
Tribune Staff

WELLAND — Peggy Nash has at least one vote in the bag.

Former long-time Welland MPP Peter Kormos has thrown his support behind

the federal NDP leadership candidate, who also acts as MP for Parkdale—High Park in Toronto.

"In a field of strong candidates, Peggy Nash stands heads and shoulders above her opponents," Kormos, a lifelong New Democrat, said

in a news release issued Friday.

Having known Nash for more than 20 years, Kormos said she "has all the attributes the NDP want in a leader."

He called her an "effective union leader," once work-

ing as a labour official at the Canadian Auto Workers union, and an "outstanding parliamentarian," even being appointed the finance critic for the Official Opposition.

Nash's experience has made her a "skilled negotiator," Kormos said.

"The NDP needs her, the federal Parliament needs her leadership and Canadians need her," he said.

"She's top-quality prime ministerial material." Kormos believes Nash has the capacity to bring new people to the party,

and to reach out to young Canadians.

"She has a lot of Jack," Kormos said, referring to former NDP leader Jack Layton who died of cancer in August at the age of 61.

"I trust her and I think Canadians will too."

portraits

■ WEATHER



Old man winter wipes out surfers



ABOVE: Surfer Mike Roy's surfboard is caught by the wind at the municipal boat launch by the Palmwood Hotel in Fort Erie. Roy, of Niagara Falls, was one of a half-dozen surfers taking to the waters of Lake Erie during the snowstorm that hit Niagara.

LEFT: Surfer George Holmes, of Niagara Falls, struggles through the high winds and blowing snow and sleet, from splashing waves, at the municipal boat launch in Fort Erie.



LEFT: Surfer Matt Roy, of Buffalo, struggles through the high winds and blowing snow and sleet, from splashing waves, at the municipal boat launch by the Palmwood Hotel in Fort Erie last Friday. There were a half-dozen surfers taking to the waters of Lake Erie during the snowstorm that hit Niagara.

RIGHT: This surfer braved the chilly waters of Lake Erie during last Friday's snowstorm to catch waves off of the municipal boat launch in Fort Erie by the Palmwood Hotel. There were a half-dozen surfers in the water.



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ourview

Better policy needed

The recent controversy over the city wanting payment for water that poured from a bathroom faucet for three weeks while the home's owner was dead inside the house could have been easily solved from a public relations standpoint.

The city could have quickly forgiven all or most of the bill due to the circumstances. It would have made the family happy and wouldn't have people railing against this city in online forums on The Tribune's and Toronto Sun's websites.

We understand the family's position as dealing with the death of a loved one is a stressful time. Finding that huge water bill would have put added stress on the family. Then dealing with city hall and finding they still want the bill paid would have made things even worse.

But we can understand the city's position to a certain degree as well.

Peter Senese, Port Colborne's director of community and corporate services, said the city pays the region for water and sewer treatment no matter what.

"It's (water) a physical commodity. We purchase the water from the region and someone has to cover the costs," Senese said.

If someone doesn't pay their bill to the city, the city still has to pay the region. While many people have sympathy for the family's situation, just as many would be upset at having an increase in taxes or water-sewer charges because people weren't paying their bills. We wonder how often a situation such as this arises in the city and how if it is dealt with the same time every way.

Mayor Vance Badaway said any policy enforced by municipal staff is set in place by city council and that if a resident wants forgiveness all they have to do is ask. He hope council will look at what happened and try to come up with a policy that will satisfy both families and taxpayers.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

REV. GORD ABRAHAM
Port Colborne Baptist Church

Not that I would ever want to stir up any "ill-will," but here goes.

During the Christmas Season (excuse me, the holidays), I received this "tongue in cheek," saucy, quote via a forwarded email originally sent to my son-in-law, who works at a local University.

"*All My Politically Correct Friends: Please accept with no obligation, implied or explicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low-stress, non-addictive, gender-neutral celebration of the summer/winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasion and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all. I also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2012, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make Canada a great nation. Not to imply that this country is necessarily greater than any other country in the world. Also, this wish is made without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith or sexual

CASCO CARNIVAL: Businesses championed

Frienrs helping Friends

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Running a carnival isn't easy, but Casco gets by with a little help from its friends.

Several businesses come together to assure the Casco and Friends Kidz New Year's Eve Carnival is a success annually. Those partnerships not only make the carnival possible, but have also turned it into a signature event for the city that more and more people are attending each year, said Vance Badaway.

The Port Colborne mayor was at Casco recently to assist the company in honoring those businesses that assist with

preference of the wishes."

To My Right-wing Friends: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Have you ever thought how foolish some things are? Like Political Correctness! Yes, I do believe that we need to be gracious and kind. That's a given for every follower of Jesus. But Jesus never restricted us from speaking out what is right or speaking to what is incorrect.

But, sometimes we came in to a few who, in very small minority, usually speak only for themselves even in the guise of speaking for others. I was asked at least two times over Christmas if the person greeting me would be offensive to me if they greeted me with "Merry Christmas." They had experienced of others telling them they were offended because my acquaintance greeted them with "Merry Christmas." Can we no longer be nice to someone in a greeting because we may in that niceness be offensive?

I am absolutely dumfounded that a very small number of vague, mysterious persons are offended and so keep us from stating what we believe, think or even make us say such foolish things as to obscure any substance to what we are saying.

Imagine, a very, very, very small minority, of offended people speak of being offended and we all cave in to that one opinion. Many are "walking on eggshells," afraid to even greet people cordially because they could be

offensive, because one obscure person is offended. Even me writing this will probably offend some soul. Do I stop writing what I think? Do I just write what that one person thinks I should write? Do I write in such a way that what I say is so obscure that it really says nothing anymore? Are we not allowed anymore to "speak the truth in love?"

In fact, the majority, of anyone I know who is in what we may call a "minority" of ethnicity or religion, is more than pleased to be greeted kindly and more than pleased to be a part of the celebrations of their adopted country as well as being enabled to celebrate their own. I have never come across anyone who is offended by being greeted by my gracious greeting of "Merry Christmas."

So let's get back to some sense of sanity and stop the silly, childish games of "offense."

Be wise, be kind, be thoughtful, be loving, but don't stop thinking and expressing your ideas.

If we limit everything we do and say (and yes, we should stop what Jesus tells us is wrong and sinful in our actions and words towards others) then we will be fearful and withdraw from saying anything that even resembles a differing opinion or thoughtful idea because we may offend some vague, mysterious person.

Let's be gracious, let's be sensitive to the needs of others but let's not be prisoners to foolishness!

the carnival each year.

Representatives from Trimac Transportation, Steak Construction Ltd. and Pro-Style Flooring each received plaques for their continued support of the event. Badaway also thanked Casco for its efforts in bringing the carnival to town.

"Partnering with our community, that's what we're here for," said Casco plant manager Lee Whitley.

It was his first time attending the carnival this past December, but he said he was overwhelmed by all the smiling faces he saw.

see CASCO | page 5



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Casco plant manager Lee Whitley, left, and Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badaway, right, present a plaque to Trimac Transportation branch manager Dan Wilcox, recognizing the company's continued support of the annual Casco and Friends Kidz New Year's Eve Carnival.

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■ CASCO



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Casco and the City of Port Colborne honoured the community partners who make the annual Casco and Friends Kidz New Year's Eve Carnival possible. Pictured in front from left are Casco plant manager Lee Whitley, Gary Makins, Port Colborne's manager of community services, Casco support services manager Anna Oakes; Marsha Watts, co-owner of Pro-Style Flooring; Gerald Sebastiani and Scott Orosz, both of Stolk Construction Ltd.; and in back, from left, are Stolk president Len Stolk, Mayor Vance Badawey, community services administrative assistant Michelle Idongu, Trimac Transportation branch manager Dan Wilcox, Pro-Style Flooring owner Charles Watts and Stephen Crowe of Stolk Construction.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Stolk Construction Ltd. was recognized by both Casco and the City of Port Colborne for its continued support of the annual Casco and Friends Kidz New Year's Eve Carnival. Pictured from left are Stolk carpenter Stephen Crowe, Casco plant manager Lee Whitley, Stolk president Len Stolk, Mayor Vance Badawey, Stolk supervisor Gerald Sebastiani and project manager Scott Orosz.

New wellness centre to host next carnival

FROM PAGE 4

Badawey expects the event scheduled to usher in 2013 will grow considerably. Port Colborne's new health and wellness centre, slated for completion in the fall, will play host to the carnival.

The day will still include all the staples local youth have grown accustomed to at the fun day out, such as skating, crafts and fireworks, but the event will be expanded to include new activities to make use of the centre's pool and gymnasium.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Casco plant manager Lee Whitley, left, and Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey present a plaque recognizing Pro-Style Flooring owners Charles and Marsha Watts for their continued support of the annual Casco and Friends Kidz New Year's Eve Carnival.

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■ **TRANSPORTATION:** Warning comes from city CAOs, transit chiefs

Committee backs students' U-passes on region buses

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency

THOROLD — Let 'em ride, a regional council committee says of students' travel to Niagara Region Transit.

Council's public works committee recommended Tuesday to recognize student U-passes aboard the region's pilot inter-municipal bus system until the end of the school term. The decision came despite a letter from the CAOs

and transit managers from St. Catharines, Welland and Niagara Falls warning the vote could break part of the pilot agreement and step around negotiations already ongoing between local transit services and the students.

Brock University and Niagara College students representatives took the vote positively, though it still has to pass through council.

"We're obviously very happy," said Niagara College student administrative council president Brian Costantini, who addressed the committee alongside Brock University student union president Daud Grewal and vice-president of finance Will Parent.

He said council's deferral of the issue in December was disappointing, but "this basically gives us that second chance."

The Region buys its fledgling bus service from transit providers in St. Catharines, Welland and the Falls. Those three services allow students to use universal bus passes, but aboard Niagara Region Transit they must pay the full \$5 fare.

Those passes are negotiated for between the city bus systems and the student unions and paid for with a special charge. At Brock, students pay about \$168.84 a year-round toward the U-passes, while Niagara College students pay \$69.50 per term.

Students had complained of being bypassed by overcrowded municipal buses, most often on the busy Thorold Stone Rd. route, while largely empty Niagara Region Transit buses go by that their passes are no good aboard.

An amendment by St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan tacked a list of recommendations in the CAOs' letter on to their vote. They call for a six-person co-ordination committee to meet, for negotiations between the committee and

student unions to continue, and for all sides to acknowledge a need for new revenue sources rather than just moving existing ones around.

The letter warns the vote could break a provision of the pilot agreement requiring all sides to commit to seeking funding opportunities and maximize their revenues co-operatively.

"The only partners we would ever treat so poorly would be our municipal partners," McMullan said.

"We're now going outside of the services and saying add all these extra riders on for free. I'm not sure we have the right to do that, but I think we could negotiate that."

Felham Mayor Dave Augustyn said he saw a first semester of U-pass access as a "pilot within a pilot."

The congested Thorold Stone Rd. route is already being addressed by new municipal buses negotiated for by the students, Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said. He said adding Region buses to the mix would confuse whether they or the extra Niagara Falls buses are fixing the problem.

"What I'm concerned about ... is we're going to have skewed results," he said.

"Our suggestion is let's play it out. Let's see if it's working," he said of the existing arrangement.

"No question, if students are going to be utilizing the Region (buses), there's going to be inefficiencies."

Grewal told council students pay \$3.5 million annually to local transit systems and contribute \$540 million per year to the region's overall economy.

The move comes with Niagara Region Transit struggling with low ridership. Region transportation director Joe Cousins said a report on ridership is coming soon. He said ridership has been short of expectations, but is growing month by month.

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■ NHS

'It's not going to get better overnight'

FROM PAGE 7

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said this appears to be part of the new direction for the NHS.

"The need for change has been here for awhile, so we are looking forward to the new direction that the NHS is going to embark on."

He said he was not surprised by the change, and said we might see a few more changes yet.

"The NHS didn't get this way overnight and it's not going to get better overnight, but sometimes they need to rebuild things from the ground up," said Diodati.

"They have cleaned house at the board and they are looking at a new governing structure, a new style in how the board is chosen and elected, and they have to make sure all the employees of the NHS are of the mindset of the new direction that we want to take the hospital."

Diodati said he has been in regular contact with Smith on some of the issues and it's nice to have responsive leadership in place.

Welland NDP MPP Cindy Forster demanded the Liberal government

release details of the executives' severance packages.

"Doctors, nurses and other clinicians are working hard, but a dysfunctional bureaucracy full of highly paid executives has not delivered what's needed for local people. The continued failure of management at every level from LHIN boards to hospital managers is wasting public money and undermining patient care," she said in a news release.

The sudden departure of those six follows three unrelated ones in 2011.

Former CEO and president of the NHS, Debbie Sevenpiper, was dismissed last January, although the reasons have never been disclosed publicly.

Then in July, Christine Clark, the head of NHS communications team, suddenly left her post during the height of the C. difficile outbreaks.

Shortly afterward, Frank Demizio,

vice-president of patient services for the Niagara Health System and the person who was in charge of GNGH, announced his retirement.

—with files from Shaun Jeffords and Tony Ricciuto

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■ **EMERGENCIES:** Make sure your cellphone is locked before putting it in your Levi's

Pocket dialing taxing on 911 system

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Pocket dialing can annoy everyone.

We've all gotten those long, garbled messages that don't have any sense or text messages including pocket pictures, but imagine getting pocketdials as a 911 operator.

Is someone in trouble and can't talk?

Or was this call inadvertent? Emergency workers must be dispatched to make sure the latter's not the case.

Const. Paul Day says Niagara Regional Police are dispatched numerous times

(Pocket dialing) ties up a ton of time when people who need help and are in a real emergency are trying to get through."

Const. Paul Day, Niagara Regional Police

to what prove to be pocket dials, but police don't keep track of numbers.

"It's always been a problem here," he says. "It ties up a lot of resources."

Toronto received 1.2 million calls to 911 in 2011 — one in five were misdials or pocket dials.

"I can't really say that we mirror Toronto because we haven't been keeping track of it, but it's definitely an issue for us. It's definitely a concern and the big part of this is educating the public to reduce it," Day says.

In Niagara in 2010, the most recent year for which

statistics are available, 159,399 calls were made to 911. Of those, 44,244 calls were routed to fire, ambulance and other emergency services.

Day says it is much easier to locate a call site and determine if the call is legitimate or a mistake if it is made from a land-line telephone. Things become complicated and many resources are used trying to ensure the safety of the caller if 911 is rung up on a cellphone.

Day suggests locking keyboards before cellphones get put into pockets or purses to avoid dialing the number by

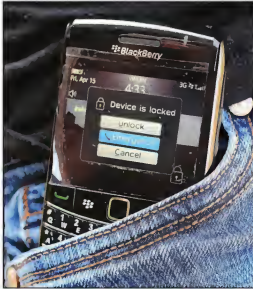
mistake.

He also suggests that people not program 911 into their contact lists or speed-dial numbers to reduce the chances of pocket dialing emergency services.

Day urges callers who do make the mistake of pocket dialing or misdialing to talk to the dispatcher, so they don't have to waste time trying to figure out where the call came from or needlessly distract emergency crews.

"(Pocket dialing) ties up a ton of time when people who need help and are in a real emergency are trying to get through."

Keep your cellphone locked or remove 911 from its speed-dial list to avoid needlessly summoning emergency crews.



Over 100,000 people have trusted their vision to Lasik Provision

Dr. Andrew Taylor knows how challenging it can be for consumers deciding on laser vision correction procedures. Undoubtedly anyone would be confused by the wide range of fees associated with laser eye surgery. Some centers are offering quotes as low as \$289 per eye with very vague guarantees on the fact that they have never had any eyes as they seem. If you can't trust the advertised price, then how can you trust that provider to perform your surgery? These are your eyes, and the best guarantee in laser eye surgery comes directly from your surgeon, equipment and the professional staff that support both.

Many consumers now realize the tangible economic benefit of laser vision correction. If you are a contact lens wearer the average monthly cost for your contact lenses ranges from \$75-\$100 dollars. This represents an annual cost of roughly \$750 dollars, most can patients require a backup up of glasses every 12-24 months. You have typically spent about \$7,500 dollars on optical wear over the past 5 years and will have similar cost over the next 5 years to look forward too. In fact patients are already financing their vision correction now and can take a lifetime making your investment more cost efficient.

At Lasik Provision, laser vision correction is viewed as an art form. Dr. Andrew Taylor has hand selected an experienced team of individuals who are consistently striving to provide the finest in all aspects of your laser experience. Dr. Andrew Taylor will personally perform your laser eye surgery. He has been serving the residents of South Western Ontario and the Northern United States for over 20 years. He can draw upon a personal experience of having performed over 100,000 successful laser procedures to achieve the results you desire. Lasik Provision has superior technology and Dr. Andrew Taylor has personally used every laser platform that is used in North America today. He lectures internationally in the field of laser eye surgery and on laser platforms. He is involved in the regulatory duties for the approval of new devices and procedures. Dr. Andrew Taylor has chosen the Zeiss MEL 807M Excimer laser and the VisuMax Femtosecond Laser as his preferred platform. Carl Zeiss is internationally renowned for their expertise in optics, their lenses are likely to be the ones you use at home in your cameras. Carl Zeiss Meditec utilizes advanced engineering processes which produce predictable refractive outcomes which is what you want as a refractive eye patient.

The Zeiss MEL 807M Excimer laser custom treats every eye with Wavefront technology. This laser is one of the fastest in the world; it uses dual eye tracking for accuracy and centration. It also uses aberration-minimization algorithms to reduce the incidence of night glare. Visual quality and stability is unsurpassed with the Carl Zeiss laser system. The MEL 807M laser has the newest technology providing correction for the presbyopic population. It is known as ZEISS BLENDED VISION, and is based on this principle of micro-optimized. It allows the eyes to maintain different focusing depths. Both eyes are corrected for intermediate distance at all times with one eye having a range of vision extending to distance and the other eye having a range of vision extending to near. This creates a laser eye surgery and on laser platforms. He is involved in the regulatory duties for the approval of new devices and procedures. Dr. Andrew Taylor has chosen the Zeiss MEL 807M Excimer laser and the VisuMax Femtosecond Laser as his preferred platform. Carl Zeiss is internationally renowned for their expertise in optics, their lenses are likely to be the ones you use at home in your cameras. Carl Zeiss Meditec utilizes advanced engineering processes which produce predictable refractive outcomes which is what you want as a refractive eye patient.

The most exciting device in laser eye surgery today, creating 'old age' eyes.

Lasik Provision is using the Carl Zeiss Meditec VisuMax Femtosecond laser for its flap creation in laser eye surgery. Dr. Andrew Taylor is now only performing completely bladeless laser procedures. It provides maximum safety and comfort for the patients. It creates a thinner flap, allowing patients with thinner corneas an opportunity to have the potential for less. It uses minimal energy, allowing more precision and less tissue disruption and therefore faster healing.

Your eyes are precious and Dr. Andrew Taylor looks forward to providing you with a level and care that exceeds your expectations. Your life was not meant to be viewed through glasses or contact lenses, it is about freedom. With these new technological breakthroughs, there has never been a better and safer time to experience the freedom to move millions of people have enjoyed with laser eye surgery.

On behalf of the entire staff at Lasik Provision we look forward to working with you.

To obtain additional information or to book your **FREE** consultation please contact our refractive counselors at 1-888-510-2020 or 905-371-3217.

You may visit our website at www.lasikprovision.com

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Jim, Police Officer
"Wearing glasses and contacts in the line of duty was a huge burden. In varying environmental conditions my glasses would fog up or be covered in moisture from rain or sweat and contact lenses would dry out before the end of a twelve hour shift. I was sceptical about the whole Lasik process but Dr. Taylor and he were very knowledgeable and reassuring. I had the Lasik process completed five years ago. I have had no complications and I would have had the procedure completed at the start of my career. The clarity with which I can see is remarkable. It is unbelievable that such a short surgical procedure with minimal discomfort can produce such results. I highly recommend Lasik Provision to colleagues, family and friends and would encourage anyone who struggles with glasses and contacts to attend for a consultation."



Barb, Optometrist
"I am thrilled with the vision sharpness and stability since having laser eye surgery with Dr. Taylor. It has enabled me to work more efficiently without having to put glasses on and off all the time. I am very grateful for Dr. Taylor's skills and professionalism for treating my eyes."



Fatima, Youth Worker
"It was thrilling to see my full gratitude and appreciation for Dr. Taylor and his entire staff, having had exceptional Lasik surgery performed with absolutely no complications whatsoever. I was not only impressed but overwhelmed with the expertise, professionalism, and courtesy that I received from every single person that I came into contact with during the course of my stay."



Don, Workplace Safety & Insurance Specialist
"I have referred to Dr. Taylor as a minor miracle! After many years of wearing irritating contact lenses and also needing reading glasses, I have now thrown them away! With my new vision I can see clearly near and far. I am absolutely thrilled with the results!"



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■ **MEDIA:** Lacrosse coach familiar with reporters

Paul Day new PR officer for regional police

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Paul Day is no stranger to the media.

As a coach for the Rochester Knighthawks lacrosse team, Day is used to fielding questions from sports reporters. For Day, lacrosse was a positive escape from his day

job as a Niagara Regional Police officer.

"I've always enjoyed sports," said Day. "I've been involved in it for years. Lacrosse helped me

enjoy policing a lot more while being an officer helped me appreciate lacrosse as well. As a coach I enjoyed talking to the media."

A 21-year veteran on the force, Const. Day will now be dealing with the media on a daily basis having become the NRP's new public relations officer. Day took over the role previously held by Const. Nilan Dave.

Day began his NRP career in 1991 as a uniformed officer. In 1998, Day worked as a detective out of the main office in St. Catharines.

In 2002, he transferred to the



Day

investigative services department. In the past two years he worked in the combined forces special enforcement unit.

Day has been involved in lacrosse since he was a youngster participating in minor and junior lacrosse in Peterborough. He played senior lacrosse in Vancouver and professionally with the Buffalo Bandits.

As a coach Day coached the St. Catharines Jr. Athletics as well as the Rochester Knighthawks for the National Lacrosse League. He also served a two-year stint as head coach and general manager of the Edmonton Rush lacrosse team.

"It's a complete 360 (degrees) from what I'm used to doing," Day said. "But the media is something I've always been interested in. I'm going to enjoy this position."

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■ CLEARING THE WAY



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A plow pushes aside snow on Hwy. 3 in Port Colborne last Friday afternoon. Snow plow crews were busy along Niagara clearing snow from the storm that hit Niagara.

ALONG THE LAKESHORE

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LIBRARY ebook & audiobook DOWNLOADS

SEMINARS: Tuesday, January 24, 6-6:45 p.m.; Wednesday, February 8, 3-4 p.m.; Monday, March 5, 6-7 p.m. Free demonstrations on how to select, check out, and download ebooks & audiobooks from the Library site to your home computer, and transfer them to a portable device. Free. Space is limited. Pre-register at the Library.

Small Hands Studio: Wonders of Winter Workshop. Monday evenings, January 16 to February 13th, from 6-7:30 p.m. Exercise your imagination this winter, as we paint, draw, and sculpt the season away. For ages 6 & up. To register contact Kelly Davies at 905-834-9483 or at smallhandsstudio@cogeco.ca. Cost: 5 week session \$65. Ask about savings for same family bookings.

Kids Yoga with Nadia: begins Tuesday afternoons.

January 17 to March 6 from 4-5 p.m. Cost: 8 weeks \$35 or \$5 per drop in. For Ages 4-12. For more information or to register, call Nadia at 905-329-9841.

Knitting: Winter Session begins Tuesday evenings, January 3 from 7-9 p.m. and Thursday afternoons, January 12 from 1-3 p.m. For more information on the Knitting Club schedule of classes or to join the Knitters' Club, call Vicki Fretz at 905-835-5373.

MONEY PARTY: Thursday, February 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m. and Monday, March 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Let's talk about money with financial maven Suzanne Hyne. Gain skills, knowledge and confidence to transform your financial future. To register in advance, contact Suzanne at 290-213-8388 or by email at suzannehyne@gmail.com.

One-on-One Computer Lessons. Saturday mornings at the Library, \$10 per person per one-hour lesson. Pre-registration required. Lessons geared toward your interests. Topics include: email, Facebook, Twitter, blogging, creating simple websites, and more... Call the Library at 905-834-6512 for an appointment.



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TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET NOTICE PUBLIC MEETING ARENA ADDITION

Please be advised that Council for the Township of Wainfleet will be holding a public meeting on **Tuesday, January 24th, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chambers located at 31940 Highway 3, Wainfleet. The purpose of the meeting is to gather public comments and input regarding proposed renovations to the Wainfleet arena. The Township has retained the services of an architect who will present various conceptual designs with construction cost estimates. Designs will be on display at the arena for viewing by the public 3 business days prior to this public meeting. Any inquiries with respect to this matter should be directed to Mr. Greg Wuisman, P.Eng at (905) 899-3463, extension 245 or gwwisman@wainfleet.ca.

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■ **SAFE COMMUNITIES:** Displays aimed at protecting Port Colborne residents



EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Jack O'Neil, a member of Safe Communities Port Colborne, holds up a door hanger he would like residents to hang on their front doors in case of an emergency.

More hang time for door tags

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — We should all be looking out for one another.

It's a philosophy Jack O'Neil, a member of Safe Communities Port Colborne, wants to apply for residents young and old.

A new wave of bright green doorknob hangers have been mailed out to residents with their water bills reminding them to check on the safety of their neighbours.

The program, initiated by Safe Communities Port Colborne, asks residents to put the hangers outside their front door before they go to bed and then remove them before 11 the next morning.

If a tag is still on the door

after 11 a.m., neighbours should check into the residence to see if everyone inside is OK.

"It's not just for seniors," O'Neil said. "We want everyone to be safe. Too many people young and old get injured easily. This will help reduce the chance of an emergency."

O'Neil said the program took two years to develop. About 6,000 hangers were mailed out with water bills.

While the usage of the first wave of hangers sent out a few months back has been good, O'Neil is hopeful more people will jump on board.

"It's for their own safety," he said.

People who did not receive a hanger in the mail can call 905-834-9289.

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■ BASKETBALL

Hornets defeat Rangers

For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne Hornets Girls Novice basketball team defeated the Niagara Rangers team 23-14 recently during an exhibition game in Virgil.

The Hornets were lead in points by Maddison Coleman and Chloe Grabell with six points each. Kennedy

Grover followed with five points, Taryn Mitchell and Ariel Wendling each had two points and Mackenzie Wells and Brona Mayne followed with one point each. The girls had the following results: Maddison Coleman five rebounds, and one steal, Kennedy Grover two rebounds, one assist and one block, Chloe Grabell

two assists and two steals, Mackenzie Wells, three rebounds, Ariel Wells four rebounds, Brona Mayne one assist and one steal, Taryn Mitchell one assist, Kiara Leblanc one assist and one steal, Ava Andrews one steal, Hannah Walker one rebound and one steal and Emma Koebel one assist and one steal.

VOLLEYBALL

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TAKE NOTICE that all persons having claims against the estate are required to send to the Under Named, their names and particulars of their claims on or before the 20th day of February 2012. After which date the estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims of which the Estate Trustees then have notice.

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This position will be part of a team providing support to the Pleasantview Funeral Visitation and Reception Centre. If you are interested, or you know of someone who is interested in this position, email a resume and cover letter, no later than January 26th, 2011.

Attention: Mike Guttin, Managing Director
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■ LUNCHEON: Chambers of commerce unite for event

■ CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dounchwith South
Niagara's major newsEDDIE CHAU
Info News Falls

WELLAND — Niagara's southern-tier mayors are doing lunch — and for the right price, you can join them and hear what they have to say.

"We don't know what they're going to talk about, but they usually identify an issue of importance and then what they have to say."

"It makes for a really informative and entertaining luncheon," Fabioano said. The luncheon will take place at 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$25 for non-members or \$35 for non-members.

Fabiano said the event is close to selling out this luncheon. In previous years the luncheon sold out quickly.

She encouraged people to book a seat in advance. To RSVP call the Welland-Pelham chamber at 905-732-7515.

Presentations will be made by Mayors Dave Augustyn of

Pelham, Wayne Badawey of Port Colborne, Jim DiDadi of Niagara Falls, Jeff Jeffs of Wainfleet, Doug Martin of Fort Erie and Barry Sharpe of Welland.

Fabiano said in years past each mayor has given their respective presentations and their colleagues would bounce ideas and/or opinions off one another.

"It makes for a really informative and entertaining luncheon," Fabioano said. The luncheon will take place at 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$25 for non-members or \$35 for non-members.

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MARYANNE FIRTH
Info News Staff

WELLAND — The chance to learn to cook, dance, paint, play harmonica or take stunning photographs is only a click away.

Whether you're looking to pursue a passion, find an interest or enhance your career — there's a continuing education program for you at Niagara College.

The college is still accepting registrants for its January term of classes, which offer a variety of topics that fall within the general interest and professional development categories.

But people looking to sign up for an interior design or accounting class may wonder why the staple continuing education guide book has been absent from their mail-

box this winter.

This is the first term the college has opted to scrap the paper copy of the guide, usually delivered to homes throughout the community, for an online version.

"We've taken a sustainability pledge at the college," said Kim Walker, dean of continuing education.

And in line with the pledge the decision was made to go paperless.

Though a brochure was sent out advising people not to expect free extra-curricular in the mail this time around, Walker wants to remind the public that all information is easily accessible by visiting www.niagaracollege.ca/ce.

On average, about 4,500 people register for continuing education classes each session, Walker said.

While there's still time to

sign up for the winter term, people are encouraged to do so sooner than later to ensure their chosen program has the enrolment it needs to avoid cancellation.

About 70% to 75% of the people taking continuing education courses do so to enhance their careers, Walker said. Having additional designations under your belt may offer a competitive edge, she said, which can be particularly important in today's job market.

"It's really great way to move forward with your career," she said, adding it can also be a fun way to enhance and develop existing skills.

Along with a variety of business and professional development courses, the college offers a wide range of general interest classes.

Make it your new year's

resolution: Learn something new," said Shirley Tomovic.

The continuing education development officer encouraged people of all ages to challenge themselves and take a class in 2012.

Whether you're looking to get fit, learn practical skills or channel your creative side, the college, she said, offers something to pique everyone's interests.

In demand this term are various language and culinary courses, wine making and the new manager's toolkit series, the latter of which teaches key skills to people new to a management position.

Photography courses have also taken off in popularity.

Photography courses range from beginner to advanced and cover a variety of topics including use of Photoshop and other pertinent software.

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2824-2825. 2825-2826. 2826-282

PUPPO'S

Corner of
Maple Ave. and
Prince Charles
Drive

FRESH BAKED
**BATARD
BREAD** 283 g

**1/2
PRICE**

PUPPO'S BAKERY

\$1

**APPLE
PIE**



3.99
620g

SPECIALS in effect Friday Jan. 20th to closing Thursday Jan. 26th, 2012 • OPEN SAT. 8-6, SUN. 10-5, MON., TUES., WED. 9-6, THURS. & FRI. 9-9

FRESH AIR CHILLED BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST

**1/2
PRICE**

3.99
lb.

CUT FROM CANADA AAA BEEF BONELESS INSIDE ROUND ROAST

**SAVE
\$2.00
LB.**

3.99
lb.

CUT FROM CANADA AAA BEEF BONELESS, CAPLESS TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS

**1/2
PRICE**

4.99
lb.

DELI Specials

Del. Sliced
MONTREAL STYLE
SMOKED BEEF

**1/2
PRICE**

3.99
lb.

Brand
KOLBASSA
AUFKUT

**SAVE
2.00
LB.**

3.99
lb.

Selamat Delicat
MILD PROVOLONE
CHEESE

**SAVE
\$2.00
LB.**

6.99
lb.

CUT FROM CANADA AAA BEEF EXTRA LEAN GROUND BEEF

**SAVE
\$2.00
LB.**

2.99
lb.

FRESH PUPPO'S HOT OR MILD TURKEY SAUSAGE

**SAVE
\$1.50
LB.**

3.99
lb.

IMPORTED FROM ITALY MOLISANA PASTA

450 g
bag

\$1

ROYALE BATHROOM TISSUE

Pkg of 12 Double Rolls



**1/2
PRICE**

4.99
2 Pkg Limit



A TRADITION OF QUALITY.

Sealtest CHOCOLATE MILK

1 LITRE
CARTON

\$1
Limit 6

WONDER WHITE BREAD



1.99
675 g loaf 6 Loaf Limit

ROYALE FACIAL TISSUE

Box of 88 or 132



\$1

MAJESTA PAPER TOWELS

8 roll pkg.



3.99

Joseph's SUGAR FREE COOKIES



2/\$5
6 oz Bag Regular Price \$3.99 each

NO. 1 GRADE CALIFORNIA ICEBERG LETTUCE



\$1
Each

NO. 1 GRADE CALIFORNIA CELERY STALKS



\$1
Each

NO. 1 GRADE CALIFORNIA "ANDY BOY" BROCCOLI



\$1
Each

EXTRA FANCY ONTARIO RED DELICIOUS or MUTSU APPLES



99¢
lb.

NO. 1 GRADE CALIFORNIA JUMBO CAULIFLOWER



1.99
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PRODUCT OF MOROCCO CLEMENTINES



3.99
4 lb Box